WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An Active transponder including an electronic unit arranged so as to control several applications or operating modes, an antenna and an electric power supply in particular a battery, said electronic unit including a data processing unit, means for amplifying the incoming signals received by said antenna and means for validating these incoming signals as a function of their mean induced voltages in said antenna, these validating means supplying to said data processing unit a validating signal for the data contained in an incoming signal when its mean voltage on the input side of this unit is greater than or equal to a determined reference voltage, wherein it includes means for varying the maximum communication distance to a reader or transceiver as a function of the application selected from said applications and/or the operating mode selected from said operating modes, these means being arranged to vary the amplification gain of said amplification means and/or said reference voltage of said validating means.

2. A transponder according to claim 1, wherein said validating means include a comparator a first input of which is connected to means supplying the mean induced voltage of the incoming signal, before or after said incoming signal amplifying means, and of which the second input is connected to means supplying said reference voltage.

3. A transponder according to claim 2, wherein said reference voltage is variable and defined by a security signal so that its value is relatively high when the selected application or operating mode is provided with a high level of security.

4. A transponder according to claim 2, wherein said reference voltage is fixed, said amplification gain being variable and defined by a security signal so that its value is relatively low when the selected application or operating mode is provided with a high level of security.

5. A transponder according to claim 3, wherein said means for varying the maximum communication distance include a memory in which a security code is stored for each of the applications and/or for each operating mode able to selected in the transponder, these security codes being used to generate said security signal.

6. A transponder according to claim 4, wherein said means for varying the maximum communication distance include a memory in which a security code is stored for each of the applications and/or for each operating mode able to selected in the transponder, these security codes being used to generate said security signal.

Sub a7 1

add a7 1